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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"

Report submitted by Ireland

1. As stated in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", in paragraph 15, subparagraph 12, the Conference agreed on: "Regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c)of the 1995 Decision on 'Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament '".

2. Ireland hereby submits its report to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The 2000 NPT Review Conference

3. During the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Ireland participated in the New Agenda'Coalition, which played a role in the final negotiations with the nuclear-weapon States to secure a successful outcome to the Conference. The group had prepared extensively for the Review Conference and had a common position as a basis for negotiations.

4. Ireland, as a member of the European Union (EU), also participated in developing a common EU position for the Review Conference. The Union delivered a statement at the Conference on the basis of this position.

5. In November 2000, the work of the 2000 Review Conference was followed up at the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The New Agenda, presented a draft resolution (A/C. 1/55/L. 4 and Rev. 1, subsequently adopted as resolution 55/33C), which reaffirmed the results of the Conference. It received very strong support from Member States and was adopted on 20 November 2000 with only three countries voting against (India, Pakistan and Israel) and eight countries abstaining.

6. During the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Ireland voted in favour of resolution 55/41, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ", which called for necessary measures to enable the Treaty to enter into force. Ireland also voted in favour of Resolution 55/33B which called for the preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. Ireland continued to vote in favour of the latter resolution in the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

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7. In October 2001, the New Agenda Coalition decided not to present a resolution in the First Committee of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The New Agenda Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed their views in a Ministerial Communique presented on 8 October 2001 in the Committee by the coordinator of the Group, South Africa. The Ministers agreed that the priority was to pursue their initiative in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process beginning in 2002.

8. In November 2001, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Cowen TD, participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Mr. Cowen made a national statement in the plenary, reaffirming the centrality of the CTBT in efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament. He called upon those remaining states whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force promptly to ratify the Treaty without delay and without conditions.

9. In December 2001, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs issued a press statement noting with regret the decision of the United States to withdraw unilaterally from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty while welcoming the consultations continuing with the Russian Federation concerning further reductions in their respective nuclear arsenals.

Preparations for the session of the Preparatory Committee 2002

10. Ireland also participated actively in the New Agenda's preparations for the Preparatory Committee session. A position paper was drafted stating fundamental principles of nuclear disarmament, taking stock of the developments since the 2000 Review Conference and making short term and long term suggestions for the way ahead. The New Agenda also released a press statement preceding the opening of the Preparatory Committee session and prepared statements to be delivered in the general debate and in the cluster debate about nuclear disarmament. The New Agenda will continue to be active in the period leading up to and during the First Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

11 . In spring 2002, the European Union prepared a Statement to be delivered on behalf of the Union at the first session of the Preparatory Committee during the general debate.

Conference on Disarmament

12 . The Conference on Disarmament has not been able to agree on a programme of work and has thus remained idle in the period since the 2000 Review Conference. Several decisions of the Conference included in the 13-step action plan have therefore not yet materialized: the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and consideration of the questions of nuclear disarmament in subsidiary bodies of the Conference on Disarmament.

13. In February 2002, the Irish Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Ms Mary Whelan, spoke in the Conference on Disarmament. Ambassador Whelan called upon the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work and expressed Ireland's readiness to accept the Amorim proposal in order to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty as well as to start dealing with nuclear disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

14. In February 2002, the European Union, under the Presidency of Spain, delivered a statement in the Conference on Disarmament calling for the commencement of work in the Conference.

Safeguards: Additional Protocol

15. With regard to the Additional Protocol, Ireland, as a member of the European Union, is in the process of fulfilling its own requirements for entry into force. Additional Protocols for the EU member States will enter into force on the date when the Agency receives written notification from the EU States and Euratom that their respective requirements for entry into force have been met.

Export controls

16. Ireland participates in the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. The implementation of our obligation under article III, paragraph 2, of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is ensured by means of controlling exports from Ireland in accordance with EU Council regulation (EC)1334/2000.

Other issues

17. At the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General 'Assembly, Ireland voted in favour of resolutions and decisions calling for regional nuclear-weapon-free zones. They are:

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East - resolutions 55/30 and 56/21;

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia -resolution 55/33 W and decision 56/412;

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas -resolutions 55/33 I and 56/24 G;

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)- resolutions 55/39 and 56/30;

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)- resolution 56/17.